

To: Starfield, Lawrence[Starfield.Lawrence@epa.gov]; DeLeon, Rafael[Deleon.Rafael@epa.gov]; Stanislaus, Mathy[Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov]; Garbow, Avi[Garbow.Avi@epa.gov]; Pavlou, George[Pavlou.George@epa.gov]; Mugdan, Walter[Mugdan.Walter@epa.gov]; Plevin, Lisa[Plevin.Lisa@epa.gov]; Schaaf, Eric[Schaaf.Eric@epa.gov]; Basso, Ray[Basso.Ray@epa.gov]; Woolford, James[Woolford.James@epa.gov]; Lynch, Mary-Kay[Lynch.Mary-Kay@epa.gov]; Salo, Earl[Salo.Earl@epa.gov]; Openchowski, Charles[openchowski.charles@epa.gov]; Patterson, Kenneth[Patterson.Kenneth@epa.gov]; Thompson, Brian[thompson.brian@epa.gov]; Breen, Barry[Breen.Barry@epa.gov]; Cromwell, Travis[Cromwell.Travis@epa.gov]; Hoffman, Linda[hoffman.linda@epa.gov]; Dawson, Shelly[Dawson.Shelly@epa.gov]; Bailey, Ethel[Bailey.Ethel@epa.gov]; McDonald, Carolyn[McDonald.Carolyn@epa.gov]; Torres, Nelida[Torres.Nelida@epa.gov]; Michaud, John[Michaud.John@epa.gov]; Corman, Bicky[Corman.Bicky@epa.gov]; Giles-AA, Cynthia[Giles-AA.Cynthia@epa.gov]
From: Saghafi, Farnaz
Sent: Mon 1/27/2014 8:16:55 PM
Subject: For Today's Passaic River Conference Call

Attached are two recent editorials by New Jersey papers regarding CPG's cleanup plan:

http://www.northjersey.com/news/passaic-river_pollution_EPA_newark_cleanup_superfund.html

http://blog.nj.com/njv_editorial_page/2013/12/dodging_the_cleanup_of_the_pas.html

Dodging the cleanup of the Passaic River: Editorial

By Star-Ledger Editorial Board The Star-Ledger
on December 01, 2013 at 7:00 AM, updated December 01, 2013 at 7:02 AM

Email



The mud flats of the Passaic River have high concentrations of cancer-causing dioxin, and a mix of other toxins.

Michael Karas/The Record

The polluters responsible for the attempted murder of the Passaic River have scrambled for years to avoid the necessary cleanup, which could cost them more than \$3 billion.

But their latest move is so desperate it's comical: They want to station workers along the river banks and offer clean fish to the anglers who have been catching polluted carp. This, they argue, will significantly mitigate the damage they did when they wrecked this river by using it as an industrial toilet for decades.

The companies are hoping this plan will help persuade the federal government to abandon plans for bank-to-bank dredging. They are pushing a cut-rate version of the job that would focus on hot spots and cost a fraction as much. The fish swap is a sweetener for their plan.

Swap the fish, fine. But there can be no compromise on the need to clean the river.

Please. This plan is a joke. They have selected only four spots along the river to exchange fish, none of them in Newark. The plan is to send workers to each spot every day and offer the swap. But what about people who fish when the workers are not there, or those who don't confine themselves to the four selected spots?

"People fish in Newark all the time," says Ana Baptista of the Ironbound Community Corporation. "This is ludicrous."

Time for the polluters to face reality and stop squirming. The Christie and Obama administrations agree that a bank-to-bank cleanup is needed, just as the Corzine and Bush administrations did before them.

This dance won't change the science. The tainted muck releases dioxin with every tide that sloshes up and down from Newark Bay. So swap the fish, fine.

But there can be no compromise on the need to clean the river.

Farnaz Saghafi |Special Assistant - Emergency and Remedial Response Division

EPA, REG 02 |290 Broadway, 19th floor| New York, NY 10007

Phone: (212) 637-4408|Fax: (212) 637-4429| saghafi.farnaz@epa.gov

